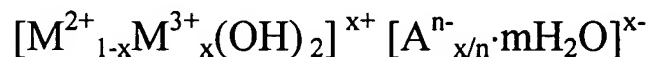


AMENDMENTS

In the claims

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A synthetic hydrotalcite of the general formula:



wherein  $M^{2+}$  is a divalent cation,  $M^{3+}$  is a trivalent cation and  $A^{n-}$  is at least one organic anion comprising a carboxylate of an amino-acid ~~containing at least one heteroatom selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, phosphorous, sulfur and halogens.~~

2. (Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 1, wherein said divalent cation source,  $M^{2+}$  consists essentially of  $Mg^{2+}$ .

3. (Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 1, wherein said trivalent cation source,  $M^{3+}$  consists essentially of  $Al^{3+}$ .

4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 1 ~~4~~, wherein said amino acid comprises 4-aminobutyric acid.

6. (Currently amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 1 ~~4~~ wherein said amino acid comprises 6-aminocaproic acid.

7. (Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 1, wherein said hydrotalcite is capable of self exfoliation.

8. (Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 7, wherein said hydrotalcite is capable of reversible exfoliation.

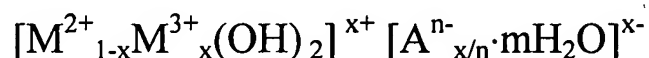
9. (Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 1, wherein said hydrotalcite is capable of reversible exfoliation.

10. (Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 1, wherein said divalent cation,  $M^{2+}$  comprises  $Mg^{2+}$  and up to 50% of at least one divalent cation selected from  $Ni^{2+}$ ,  $Co^{2+}$ ,  $Zn^{2+}$ ,  $Cu^{2+}$  and  $Mn^{2+}$ .

11. (Currently amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite of claim 1, wherein said trivalent cation,  $M^{3+}$  comprises a mixture of  $Al^{3+}$  and up to 50% of at least one trivalent cation selected from  $Al^{3+}$ ,  $Cr^{3+}$ , and  $Fe^{3+}$ .

12 - 32 [Canceled]

33. (Currently amended) A synthetic hydrotalcite-poly-addition polymer blend comprising:  
at least one poly-addition polymer; and  
a synthetic hydrotalcite of the general formula:



wherein  $M^{2+}$  is a divalent cation,  $M^{3+}$  is a trivalent cation and  $A^n$  is at least one organic anion comprising a carboxylate of an amino-acid ~~containing at least one heteroatom selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, phosphorous, sulfur and halogens.~~

34. (Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-poly-addition polymer blend of claim 33, wherein said divalent cation,  $M^{2+}$  consists essentially of  $Mg^{2+}$ .

35. (Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-poly-addition polymer blend of claim 33, wherein said trivalent cation,  $M^{3+}$  consists essentially of  $Al^{3+}$ .

36. (Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-poly-addition polymer blend of claim 33, wherein said at least one poly-addition polymer is selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene, polybutene-1, poly-4-methyl pentene-1, polyvinyl chloride and polystyrene.

37. (Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-poly-addition polymer blend of claim 33, wherein said at least one poly-addition polymer comprises a maleated polyolefin.

38. (Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-poly-addition polymer blend of claim 37, wherein said maleated polyolefin comprises maleated polypropylene.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Currently amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite-poly-addition polymer blend of claim ~~33~~ 39,

wherein said amino acid comprises 4-aminobutyric acid.

41. (Currently amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite-poly-addition polymer blend of claim ~~33~~ 39, wherein said amino acid comprises 6-aminocaproic acid.

42. (Currently amended) The synthetic hydrotalcite-poly-addition polymer blend of claim ~~33~~ 39, wherein said at least one polymer comprises a maleated polyolefin.

43. (Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-poly-addition polymer blend of claim 42, wherein said maleated polyolefin bonds with said amino acid in the form of an amide.

44. (Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-poly-addition polymer blend of claim 42, wherein said maleated polyolefin bonds with said amino acid in the form of an imide.

45. (Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-poly-addition polymer blend of claim 33, wherein said hydrotalcite is capable of self exfoliation.

46. (Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-poly-addition polymer blend of claim 45, wherein said hydrotalcite is capable of reversible exfoliation.

47. (Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-poly-addition polymer blend of claim 33, wherein said hydrotalcite is capable of reversible exfoliation.

48. (Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-poly-addition polymer blend of claim 33, wherein said divalent cation,  $M^{2+}$  contains  $Mg^{2+}$  and up to 50% of at least one divalent cation selected from  $Ni^{2+}$ ,  $Co^{2+}$ ,  $Zn^{2+}$ ,  $Cu^{2+}$  and  $Mn^{2+}$ .

49. (Original) The synthetic hydrotalcite-poly-addition polymer blend of claim 33, wherein said trivalent cation,  $M^{3+}$  contains  $Al^{3+}$  and up to 50% of at least one trivalent cation selected from  $Cr^{3+}$  and  $Fe^{3+}$ .

50 - 70 (Canceled)